

# Lyric

FROM: Lisa Middleton, Director of Marketing  
MEDIA INQUIRIES:  
Holly H. Gilson ([hgilson@lyricopera.org](mailto:hgilson@lyricopera.org) / 312-827-5939)  
Magda Krance ([mkrance@lyricopera.org](mailto:mkrance@lyricopera.org) / 312-827-5924)  
Kamaria Morris ([kmorris@Lyricopera.org](mailto:kmorris@Lyricopera.org) / 312-827-5928)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Tuesday, December 22, 2015

LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO  
20 North Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
[lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org)  
#LyricRosenkavalier

**Romantic comedy, sublimely beautiful music...  
plus love triangles and double-cross-dressing!**

**Der Rosenkavalier returns to Lyric Monday, February 8**

CHICAGO – **Lyric Opera of Chicago** presents the perfect midwinter getaway: a beautiful production of Richard Strauss’s delectably bittersweet romantic comedy Der Rosenkavalier, which opens on Monday, February 8 for eight performances.

The opera stars **Sophie Koch** (Feb. 8-20) and **Alice Coote** (Mar. 4-13) in the title role as the teenaged “Rose Cavalier,” Octavian, who is amorously involved with a woman twice his age, Princess von Werdenberg, a.k.a. the Marschallin, sung by **Amanda Majeski**. Her cousin, the boorish Baron Ochs (**Matthew Rose**/debut), plans to marry Sophie (**Christina Landshamer**/American debut) for her family’s money. Sophie, however, falls hard for the betrothal messenger Octavian instead, and he with her. Much merry confusion ensues – including Ochs pursuing a chambermaid who’s really Octavian in disguise – before the rapturous trio and duet that conclude this musically divine comedy, when the Marschallin releases her young lover and Sophie and Octavian are united.

**Edward Gardner** conducts the production directed by **Martina Weber** (both debuts). Sets and costumes are designed by **Thierry Bosquet** with lighting by **Duane Schuler**. **Michael Black** is chorus master.

“Edward Gardner is marvelous – I’m so happy he’s coming to conduct Strauss’s most popular opera,” says **Sir Andrew Davis**, Lyric’s music director. “He’s a real hot property, and he’ll make a wonderful Lyric debut.”

“The cast is really superb,” says **Anthony Freud**, Lyric’s general director. “Amanda Majeski triumphed here as the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* to open our season and recently sang her first Marschallin in Frankfurt. Sophie Koch and Alice Coote are two of today’s most

remarkable interpreters of Octavian. Christina Landshamer is a brilliant young German soprano who gave one of the most exciting auditions I've ever heard, and Matthew Rose is a tremendous young bass with a major international career, both of whom will be making their Lyric debuts."

Performance dates are February 8, 13, 16, 20, March 4 and 7 at 6:30pm; and March 10 and 13 at 1pm. For tickets and information call (312) 827-5600 or go to [lyricopera.org/rosenkavalier](http://lyricopera.org/rosenkavalier).

Lyric's presentation of *Der Rosenkavalier* is generously made possible by an **Anonymous Donor** and **Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich M. Gross**.

#### **About Lyric**

Lyric Opera of Chicago's mission is to express and promote the life-changing, transformational, revelatory power of great opera. Lyric exists to provide a broad, deep, and relevant cultural service to Chicago and the nation, and to advance the development of the art form.

Founded in 1954, Lyric is dedicated to producing and performing consistently thrilling, entertaining, and thought-provoking opera with a balanced repertoire of core classics, lesser-known masterpieces, and new works; to creating an innovative and wide-ranging program of community engagement and educational activities; and to developing exceptional emerging operatic talent.

Under the leadership of general director Anthony Freud, music director Sir Andrew Davis, and creative consultant Renée Fleming, Lyric strives to become The Great North American Opera Company for the 21st century: a globally significant arts organization embodying the core values of excellence, relevance, and fiscal responsibility.

###